



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of New York*

100 South Clinton Street

*Room 900; P.O. Box 7198
Syracuse, New York 13261-7198
(315) 448-0672*

April 16, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, together with Jane Hughes, Special Agent in Charge, Northeast Area Field Office, U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General, announced today the federal arrest of a postal employee on child pornography charges.

A federal criminal complaint unsealed today charges MICHAEL P. GEARY, age 54, with knowingly possessing child pornography. The complaint filed in U.S. District Court against GEARY alleges that in November, 2009, using a government computer at the Utica, N.Y. post office, GEARY searched for, received, and viewed child pornography.

GEARY was arrested today, and made his initial appearance before Hon. George H. Lowe, United States Magistrate Judge. GEARY was remanded pending a detention hearing.

GEARY faces a maximum penalty of 20 years, with a five year mandatory minimum, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a required term of supervised release of at least 5 years, and up to life. If convicted, GEARY will also be required to register as a sex offender.

GEARY'S arrest is the result of an investigation by U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General, as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov.

GEARY is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tamara B. Thomson, who can be

reached at 448-0672.

The charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.